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Statement of the  
American Apparel Manufacturers Association

Submitted to the Chairman,  
Free Trade Area of the Americas  
Committee of Government Representatives  
On  
Civil Society

By

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Statement of the American Apparel Manufacturers Association**

- The American Apparel Manufacturers Association (AAMA) is the central trade association in the United States for manufacturers of apparel. AAMA has been a strong advocate of previous trade liberalization efforts such as the Uruguay Round Agreements, and supports the current Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) process.
- Production sharing arrangements with our neighbors in the Western Hemisphere have allowed the U.S. apparel industry to remain competitive in a global marketplace, while providing important developmental opportunities for neighboring countries.
- Trade liberalization under the FTAA should be comprehensive - implemented on a level plane across industries - with no carve-outs for individual industries.
- Harmonization and simplification of international trade processes -especially customs procedures - is a key element of trade liberalization under the FTAA.
- FTAA countries should implement the proposed business facilitation measures prior to the November 1999 ministerial meeting.
- Labeling requirements for garments should be harmonized and simplified to the greatest extent possible.
- Negotiations on labor and environmental standards have a place in FTAA negotiations, but only as they strictly relate to trade.
- The creation of the FTAA will provide significant benefits to the U.S. apparel industry and its hemispheric counterparts.